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DRS. H. S. C. HUIJSMAN

PERSOONIA

Published by the Rijksherbarium, Leiden Volume 13, Part 3, pp. 233-235 (1987)

Drs. H. S. C. Huijsman (1900–1986)

With the death on 24 September 1986 of Drs. H. S. C. Huijsman the Dutch mycologists lost one of their ablest and internationally known fellow members as well as a rich source of agaricological information and inspiration.

In the early beginning of his professional medical life as an oculist, Huijsman became spellbound by agarics and boleti and their wealth of taxonomical, morphological and biological problems. By dedicated studies in the field and at home with microscope and rapidly growing library, he soon became the leading agaricologist in the Netherlands. Frequently he put his increasing knowledge to the test at mycological forays abroad, particularly in France, where he got acquainted with several of the great mycologists as Maire, Heim, Konrad, Maublanc, Kühner, Romagnesi, Malençon, Josserand, Singer, Pearson, and others.

His large medical practice was often difficult to combine with mycological activities, but could not keep Huijsman from becoming a kind of mycological oracle, frequently consulted by amateurs and professionals alike.

An early retirement in 1953 made it possible for him to spend a much greater part of his time on his beloved mycology and soon afterwards he became a very welcome honorary associate of the Rijksherbarium. It was also then that he and Mrs. Huijsman started to spend most mushroom seasons in rich parts of France of Switzerland. In 1958 they choose their permanent domicile in the Swiss Jura, where for a period of eleven years the mycoflora was extensively explored, but afterwards they returned to the Netherlands. Particularly in the Swiss period Huijsman's knowledge of agarics and herbarium increased considerably. Few could measure with him in field-experience.

During almost all his life Huijsman's activities were tempered by a regularly returning illness making him incapable of working for several periods each year. This and his immense scientific curiosity which made him enter every seemingly promising path that opened up to him, are the reasons that his mycological production measured in publications has not been much larger yet. Once, before the electron microscope came into use in mycology, Huijsman started a comparative study on spore-wall structures in brown-spored agarics, but his efforts finally got frustrated by the limitations of his light microscope.

Huijsman's greatest (albeit indirect) contribution to mycology in the Netherlands probably has been his constant call, particularly in his early mycological years, for improvement of mycological exploration and observations.

Besides his publications Huijsman left a large herbarium and boxes full of notes sometimes accompanied by water-colours by Mrs. Huijsman, all accommodated now in the Rijksherbarium, Leiden.

Huijsman was a corresponding member of the Société mycologique de France and an honorary member of the Dutch Mycological Society. He is also honoured in some names of species, viz.: Lepiota huijsmanii Wichanský (1960), Entoloma huijsmanii Noordel. (1984), Hebelomina huijsmaniana Sing. (1986; a synonym of H. neerlandica Huijsman, 1978), and Inocybe huijsmanii Kuyper (1986).

C. Bas

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